Human Events *A Weekly Analysis for the American Citizen*
Editorial Office 1323 M STREET, WASHINGTON 5, D. C. *Telephone* NATIONAL 2066
VOL. IV, NO. 21, *Issue Number* 173, MAY 21, 1947 *Editors:* FELIX MORLEY & FRANK C. HANIGHEN

LIBRARY MAY 29 1947

EUROPE'S CORONARY THROMBOSIS

by Felix Morley

"Summer in Germany," wrote Mark Twain in happy Nineteenth Century days, "is the perfection of the beautiful." But as the shadows lengthen over the physical and moral wreckage which is Germany in 1947, it is a perfection of the horrible which becomes ever more apparent.

At the beginning of the third summer after the close of the war in Europe the recuperative powers of Nature are still hopelessly blocked by the vindictiveness of Man. Even if there had been any Christian motivation in Allied policy toward the conquered, the road back in Germany would have been an uphill, arduous climb. The measures actually applied have in general been those of brutal, ruthless and unintelligent revenge. Now the bitter fruit of this policy is ripening for the harvest.

We, who have nothing to gain from the ruination of Europe, who pay lip service to the cause of international co-operation, and who find the phrase "One World" appealing, are nevertheless the sponsors of a policy which is destroying European Civilization. If grinding Germany to fragments were in any way advantageous to us the operation would be understandable, regardless of the human misery involved. Actually we are with good reason increasingly apprehensive about the long-term effects of our actions upon our own economy and security.

Nothing will be gained, moreover, by pretending that the responsibility for what has happened, and is likely to happen, in Europe can properly be placed upon others. If the actions of Great Britain and France since the close of the fighting have been consistently short-sighted, it is in part because we have failed to produce the dispassionate alternatives which our lofty moral pretensions have implied. If the Russians have consistently exploited our blunders in order to stimulate chaos for the benefit of Communism, it cannot be said that they ever failed to state their objectives openly and frankly.

The American people cannot be blamed for the last war, though certainly the Roosevelt Administration did nothing effective to avert it. But we can and will be indicted for a post-war policy which in effect, if not by general intent, has made the ruin of Europe complete; its recovery in the foreseeable future highly improbable.

Copyright 1947 by HUMAN EVENTS, INC.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

For better or worse Germany is the industrial and economic heart of the Europe that is now dying. That fact seems to have escaped those Americans who have tried to determine Europe's future without taking the pains to acquire any knowledge of its past. Even so, the essential role of Germany in the European economy should have been apparent to anyone familiar with the industrial evolution of our own country.

Pennsylvania, for instance, plays much the same role in the American economy that Germany has for a century played in that of Europe. Pennsylvania produces much of the coal, and manufactures a large proportion of the steel, for the North American continent. Its network of railroads has aided the Keystone State to develop a primacy in heavy industry of many varieties. The locomotives built in Pennsylvania pull trains through all the 48 states. The ships built on the Delaware move cargo through all the Seven Seas.

Let us consider the effect, not on Pennsylvania but merely on the neighboring states, of an edict calculated to destroy the industrial potential of the central area. Obviously the people of New York and Ohio, of West Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, would suffer from the resultant paralysis scarcely less acutely than the inhabitants of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton. To forbid Pennsylvania to make locomotives and ships, as the Potsdam Decree does in the case of Germany, would work universal, not localized, injury.

The consequences of Potsdam are now working out inexorably for all of Europe. That decree, formulated in Washington and enforced over open British misgivings, has shattered a European economic unity which survived the first World War and would have survived even the 1939-45 disaster if our ineffable planners had not decided otherwise.

Great Britain, which grew prosperous side by side with Germany, has lost its best European customer. France is scarcely less injured by the enforced economic anemia of its neighbor. The highly integrated countries of Western Europe may accurately be compared to a group of rock climbers, each independent but all roped together for mutual protection. When one of the strongest of the group slips -- or is pushed -- over the abyss, it is all the others can do to support his helpless weight. In Europe, now, the dead weight of the vanquished is steadily dragging the so-called victors down.

The very factors which made Germany so powerful as an enemy should, if logic ruled, have emphasized the necessity of German recovery from

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

any European viewpoint. The dominant reasoning, however, has been exactly opposite, with consequences which the Kremlin, at any rate, is intelligent enough to understand.

III

As a result of the occupation policy of the Western Allies, crystallized by the Potsdam Decree of August 2, 1945, the economy of Western Germany has reverted, in all essentials, to that of a thousand years ago. Nazi effort to abolish the free market has been confirmed; there is no currency worthy of the name; exchange of goods is on a primitive barter basis which is itself ceasing to operate because the townspeople no longer have personal possessions with which to trade.

The reaction of the British and American authorities to this situation is one which carries no trace of promise for improvement. Since the German farmers are now refusing to surrender foodstuffs for currency which has no value, and with which non-existent goods could not be bought if the currency had value, the military are threatening to confiscate from the barns and fields. This can only result in the farmers refusing to produce more than they need for their own households.

Dr. James R. Newman, the American military governor of Hesse, last week threatened to "search all places and seize and confiscate all foodstuffs" if the German farmers continue to hoard produce which they are unable to exchange because even the black market is now disappearing in Germany. Before putting this idle threat into effect Dr. Newman should ponder the thought expressed by President Truman when, on October 14 of last year, he announced the demise of OPA:

> "Some have even suggested that the Government go out onto the farms and ranges and seize the cattle for slaughter. This would indeed be a drastic remedy. . . . We decided against the use of this extreme wartime emergency power of Government. It would be wholly impractical . . ."

It is, to say the least, "impractical" to talk about confiscating farm produce in Germany when we are ourselves largely responsible for the fact that the German farmer no longer has any incentive to sell what he raises. This counsel of despair would do no more to solve the problem than will the current embargo on sending cigarettes to Germany, applied because smokes are now used there as a medium of exchange.

Dr. Newman is even further from the mark when he informs the German people, over the radio, "that there is no obligation, absolutely none, upon the United States to engage in a program of feeding the country it defeated."

We have precisely that obligation, and disclaimers by Dr. Newman or other officials cannot conceal it. Our wartime policy of "Uncondi-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tional Surrender," as HUMAN EVENTS pointed out on June 27, 1945, deprived the Germans of choosing their own government and of setting their house in order. Potsdam confirmed this policy. As a result the German people today -- in the American zone -- are legally our subjects. It only adds to our shame to threaten these miserable vassals with execution for protesting conditions they cannot remedy.

IV

For two reasons, however, the outbursts of the harassed officials in our German colony are now only of academic importance. One of these reasons is the progressive decay of all of Western Europe, which is spreading, and will spread farther, as a result of German collapse. All indications are that the ruin of Germany, now an accomplished fact, will soon be obscured in the minds of Americans by the decay of the English and other national economies which will not be restored if the German heart stops beating in Europe.

The other reason for not attaching too much importance to the desperate edicts of our occupation authorities is the steady advance of Russian influence. The Russian plan for Germany is crude and promises the German people nothing but enslavement. Nevertheless the Russians have a definite plan where we seem to have none, and at least Russia offers the German farmer some goods in return for confiscation of his produce. We merely seek to deny the responsibility we so blithely assumed.

Last winter was dreadful in Europe. But the one which is coming threatens to be even more so. At this eleventh hour it is imperative soberly to review our German policy and to visualize more clearly the ghastly outcome which, as events are moving, is becoming increasingly probable. For it will be too late if we begin to carry out our threats of machine-gunning our miserable German slaves, and if Russia then tells us to stop that murder and get out of Europe, for good and all.

The "Truman Doctrine," as an alternative to the complete revaluation which is needed, is of small consolation. Europe today is like a man stricken with coronary thrombosis. Instead of helping Nature to strengthen the heart, the Truman Doctrine seeks to massage the pedal extremities. For, from the viewpoint of economic importance, Greece may be compared to a foot of Europe, as Germany, whether we like it or not, is the Continental heart. Of course the feet and hands grow cold when the heart stops beating.

Reproduction or quotation is permitted only when credit is given to HUMAN EVENTS. Trial subscription, three months for $3. Six months, $5.50. One year, $10. Two years, $18. Domestic airmail (including APO and FPO) and foreign (regular mail) one year $11. Foreign airmail rates on request. Please remit in U.S.A. DOLLARS. Allow two weeks for new subscriptions or change of address to become effective. Address all correspondence to: HUMAN EVENTS, 1323 M Street, WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Not Merely Gossip *A Supplement to* Human Events VOL. IV, NO. 21

By Frank C. Hanighen May 21, 1947

The picture of a Truman irresistably borne forward on a wave of Gallup poll figures is overplayed, to say the least. Various Washington commentators addicted to this vision have their own reasons for the addiction. It's always a comfortable feeling to like -- and, more importantly, to be liked by -- the powers that be. While the President's revival of popularity is genuine, it is much more limited than is often assumed. The Democratic leaders take satisfaction from the trials of the Republican Congressional majority and talk of a "divided GOP," but privately they have no illusions about their own unity. When Mr. Truman returns to the White House after a successful appearance before a Gridiron Club dinner, he has worries. And they are by no means confined to the formidable question: to veto, or not to veto, the labor bill?

It may be a surprise to many to learn that one principal source of the Presidential dis-ease is the same figure that so largely contributed to his defeat last November -- Henry Agard Wallace. Democratic party chieftians have no illusions about the size of Wallace's following. They feel sure that in the long run he will sink to an historic niche beside folk like General Coxey. But, the short run -- that is indeed a problem. A Wallace third-party movement might divert just enough votes in key states to ensure a Republican victory in 1948. It might not, too. But the game of politics is the game of maintaining an omnium gatherum; and the leaders of the Missouri Wigwam prefer to take no chances.

Left Wing advisers such as Paul Porter, David Niles and Sam Rosenman have the ear of the President; and his calling list bears witness to their endeavors. These advisers feed Truman's apprehensions; as Left Wingers they are inclined to put a rather high estimate on the power of the lib-lab voting element. It is known that these advisers have recently been seeking to rally support among certain Democrats who have for some time remained cool to Truman.

Qualms in the White House became jitters over the past week end when the Democratic chiefs read the results of the Democratic by-election primary in Washington's 3rd Congressional District. A Left Wing Democrat, Charles R. Savage, decisively defeated a strong supporter of the Truman policy, Attorney General Smith Troy. Mr. Savage was the representative from this district in the 79th Congress and was politically related to Congressman Hugh De Lacy, whose pro-Communist record rivaled that of Marcantonio. Both Savage and De Lacy were defeated last November. Savage was backed by pro-Wallace supporters in the primary campaign and himself opposed the Truman Greek-Turkish policy. Republicans welcome the Savage nomination, holding that many conservative Democrats will support Mr. Russell V. Mack, the Republican candidate in the run-off on June 7.

The first officially Democratic recognition of this tide within the party's ranks came promptly the day following the announcement of voting results. Mr. Robert W. Kenny, acknowledged leader of the Democratic Party in California, welcomed Wallace to Los Angeles and sat beside him at a press conference when the former Vice-President said that Russia wanted peace more than any other nation.

Now it may be that the Republican Party is divided to the extent so often proclaimed by the chorus in Washington. But if so the Democratic Party is also riven, bow to stern, judging by the plain facts of the political situation. At any rate, the picture might just as well be kept in focus.

* * * * *

Secretary Marshall enjoyed unanimous acclaim for his handling of the Big Four Conference in Moscow when he returned to Washington. Today the laurels have begun to fade. Army circles and some diplomats are saying that Marshall made a bad mistake

Copyright 1947 by Human Events, Inc.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

when he agreed to putting off the next conference until November. These critics believe that the "patient is sinking" faster than is realized and that by next fall the Foreign Ministers of the West may be faced with more faits accomplis. Therefore, it is argued, a meeting, say around July 1, would have placed the Western Powers in a better position diplomatically to prevent unhappy developments.

Additionally, some Congressional circles are restless because Marshall has not cleaned house of Left Wing elements in the State Department; and this feeling is behind much of the opposition to the "Voice of America" program which has the backing of the Secretary of State. Benton's extensive explanations on the Hill have by no means altered this attitude. According to some Members of Congress, the appropriation for the "Voice" should be killed; and later, after the Benton division is dispersed, another appropriation for a new propaganda setup could win approval.

* * * * *

It's open season now for suggesting men to fill the vastly important but highly uncomfortable job of heading the mission to Greece. Among names mentioned -- frequently in private, but rarely in public -- are the following: Mr. Robert Moses, widely respected New York Commissioner of Parks, whose first-rate talents for administration and whose aversion to wasting money disqualified him from service under Mr. Roosevelt; Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, President of Studebaker, and Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development; and finally Mr. Richard F. Allen, former Vice-Chairman of the Red Cross, with which organization he served many years abroad. The latter's ability, knowledge of Europe and distaste for boondoggling might prove a handicap. On the other hand, he comes from Missouri.

* * * * *

This column made a comparison (November 13, 1946) between the Peron regime and the carpetbagging reconstruction era in the United States. Today the Peron Administration, usually aggressive, has assumed a defensive role in face of accusations of financial irregularities. Miguel Miranda, President of the Central Bank, has been the target of much criticism, but other Government departments are also involved. Guatemala radio reports (May 10): "Peron last night held a prolonged press conference defending the administration against the charges made by the opposition Deputies in the debate in the Chamber last night. He said that the policy had been to develop the industry of the country, even though this seemed to be favoring some plants. . . . Miguel Miranda, President of the Central Bank, who took part in the press conference, told reporters that Argentina would soon have an automobile factory." And, according to the Buenos Aires radio, Peron at the same time promised that "all those committing fraudulent acts will be sent to the courts."

* * * * *

The text of the Portal to Portal Act signed by the President last week commences with a most unusual rebuke to the judiciary in general, but also, by implication, to the Supreme Court, whose decision on the Mt. Clemens case inspired the drive for such legislation. The opening words are, indeed, severe: "The Congress hereby finds that the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, has been interpreted judicially in disregard of long-established customs, practices, and contracts between employers and employees, thereby creating wholly unexpected liabilities, immense in amount and retroactive in operation, upon employers with the results that . . ."

There follows a list, ten points in all, of the problems caused by the judicial action. The Supreme Court, doubtless, reads the election returns. Members of the Court may perhaps take the reprimand with some humor and be thankful to Congress for reminding them of what happened last November.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The Justices can also hardly fail to recognize that what's sauce for the New Deal goose is sauce also for the Republican gander. On January 1, we reported that Members of Congress, confronted by the terrifying prospects arising from the Court's decision, were considering one solution, namely: passing an act withdrawing Court jurisdiction from portal suits. It was further noted that such a statute would enjoy a recent precedent, the Act of August 27, 1935, introduced at President Roosevelt's request, barring suits against the Government for damages that might be charged to dollar devaluation and obligations of the gold clause. The 1935 law made the measure doubly sure by saying that any appropriations paid to satisfy claims presented would have to be in the devalued dollar.

The Portal to Portal Act is similarly double-barrelled. In one section it removes liability from employers under certain conditions and generally lays down how the Fair Labor Standards Act should be construed; and in another it follows the 1935 statute by withdrawing jurisdiction. (Congressional power to do the latter derives from Article III of the Constitution.) The Republican Congress, in short, has taken a leaf from the New Deal.

* * * * *

The spokesman of the coal operators and United Mine Workers now meeting at Washington's Shoreham Hotel have a great responsibility. The United States has become the only great coal exporting nation in the world. It is the only country from which cargo coal goes abroad, and some 1,300 vessels are now engaged in this carrying trade. With the Ruhr at a low level of production, and with Britain and France out of the world export market, America provides the coal imports without which Europe would fall victim to industrial paralysis and revolution, should labor trouble affect mine production. The outcome of the Shoreham negotiations therefore will have great international meaning.

The strategy of coal assumes an increasingly vital role in the world scene. Every day brings dispatches emphasizing its importance. M. W. Fodor cables from Vienna to the Washington Post, (May 17): "'What we need is coal, coal and again coal,' one official told me. Russia tries to strangle Austria by withholding coal." The Washington Star, same date, reports that Poland's coal has become a big pawn in the game of international trade agreements on the Continent. It cannot be forgotten that Secretary Marshall in his report to the nation on his return from Moscow devoted the first and most important section of his survey of the European economic scene to the production and distribution of coal.

In the domestic picture, coal has and will continue to have for many years a commanding position in an American raw material situation which, in some other respects, causes concern. Despite much wishful editorializing during last Winter's strike, coal can only be supplemented, not replaced in an expanding economy. Hydroelectric power, Diesel engines, oil and gas heating have met a part of growing needs, rather than reducing the realm of King Coal. It is significant that the M. A. Hanna Co. of Pittsburgh is to build an oil-from-coal plant. Oil may run out, but coal reserves are ample for centuries to come. Thus, at home and abroad, the mineral seems to deserve Hilaire Belloc's ironic tribute:

"Our civilization
Is built upon coal.
Let us chaunt in rotation:
Our civilization
That lump of damnation
Without any soul,
Our civilization
Is built upon coal."

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Notes and Quotes

Mr. Henry Wallace in England met with some tart criticisms, one of which (Economist, April 19) is especially worth quoting because it applies to much of the "Wallese" disseminated by the former Vice-President on his current tour in this country: "There is a good deal in Mr. Wallace's vocabulary and argumentation which recalls the worst days of the Thirties in this country, when jargon, sentimentalism and wishful thinking ran riot. Typical is the argument that Commuunism 'can only be ended when poverty and exploitation are no longer a part of democracy.' It is the argument Communists use in the company of liberals. No one will deny that Communism thrives where there is poverty and social injustice; but it is equally true that Communism thrives on men's love of power, excitement and conspiracy.

"With his faith in the potentialities of all men, Mr. Wallace overlooks, or deliberately ignores, what Hobbes four hundred years ago placed first among the factors to be reckoned with in politics: 'A perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death.' This is the human characteristic which makes Communists conspire so efficiently; for the prize they aim at is complete -- not shared -- power. Surely Mr. Wallace's hosts can explain to him that no one expects the Communists everywhere to give way to the Socialists and Radicals just because the latter promise 'an international new deal.' And while Mr. Wallace's deal is being prepared, who is to prevent the internal collapse of the countries in which Communists aim at complete power, whether for themselves alone or for Russian foreign policy?"

* * * * *

Mr. Lee de Forest, now 73 years of age, is often called "the father of radio." A pioneer in the field, he patented more than 300 inventions, including the radio tube, which is credited with doing much to develop radio broadcasting. On the occasion of a recent meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters in Chicage, Mr. de Forest composed the following letter: "What have you gentlemen done with my child? He was conceived as a potent instrumentality for culture, fine music, the uplifting of America's mass intelligence. You have debased this child, you have sent him out on the streets in rags of ragtime, tatters of jive and boogie woogie, to collect money from all and sundry for hubba hubba and audio jitterbug. You have made of him a laughing stock to intelligence, surely a stench in the nostrils of the gods of the ionosphere; you have cut time into tiny cubelets, called spots (more rightly stains), wherewith the occasional fine program is periodically smeared with impudent insistence to buy or try.

"The nation has no soap, but soap opera without end of sense floods each household daily. Said a man, 'I have to use their alkalizing tablets, their commercials upset my stomach.' Murder mysteries rule the waves by night and children are rendered psychopathic by your bedtime stories. This child of mine, now 30 years in age, has been resolutely kept to the average intelligence of 13 years. Its national intelligence is maintained moronic, as though you and your sponsors believe the majority of listeners have only moron minds. Nay, the curse of his commercials has grown consistently more cursed, year by year."

* * * * *

Of the 13,000 conscientious objectors jailed in the United States, 1,000 remain in prison. President Truman's Board apparently has no intention of granting a general amnesty, although urged by many to do so; but instead is processing individual cases. It is, indeed, shocking that, while amnesty has been granted to millions of political prisoners abroad, any conscientious objectors should still be in prison in this country.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED